

Any episode which gives the Doctor the reproachful line, 'Amy, what have you done?' (and twice!) must have room for a spanking scene. So when the Doctor finds Amy in the voting booth, there's not much doubt where things are going to end up...

Mandy, the little girl, explains what goes on in the booth: everyone over sixteen has the right to vote either to protest or forget the situation on Starship UK. She has never voted; she's not eligible, she explains, because she's twelve. 'Someone else here isn't eligible to vote,' says the Doctor. 'She's not a citizen of Starship UK. But she voted anyway. She's been told not to meddle, but what does she do?'

'I only wanted to find out...' begins Amy.

'And you did,' retorts the Doctor. 'And then you chose to forget it. So we don't even have the information now.' He turns to Mandy. 'You're twelve, you say? Then you're too young for what's going to happen now. Thanks for helping. Run along now. Don't annoy any Smilers if you can help it.' And with a press on the button the door slides shut, leaving the Doctor and Amy alone inside the booth.

Amy looks around apprehensively, but there seems to be no way out, should she need one. 'Does this mean what I think it means?' she asks.

'It means a spanking. I don't know what you thought it meant.'

'That's what I was afraid of,' says Amy.

'Come here,' he says, taking her by the shoulder as he sits on the voting chair. He pulls her down across his knee. She lands, horizontal, legs in the air... 'But you're a little overdressed for this,' says the Doctor.

'I am in my \*nightie\*!' says Amy indignantly through gritted teeth, then gasps as the Doctor reaches for the hem.

And we have to pause for a moment to establish something important. We have good reason to think that Amy is wearing underwear, and the Doctor \*knows\* that she is or he wouldn't be pulling up her skirt: he normally spansks his companions on their panties, and bares their bottoms only as a last resort, the final indignity. We get to see one article of Amy's underwear later in the episode: she may be in her nightie, but she is also wearing a bright pink bra. But the Doctor has seen her panties too: remember that scene at the start where she's floating in space while the Doctor holds her by the ankle looking upwards?

So when the Doctor lifts the skirt of her white nightie, he reveals her bottom snugly encased in pale pink panties. His palm smacks down, and Amy bucks under the impact. Her arms and legs flail helplessly, and she yelps. This is her first spanking since that time in the hospital two years

ago...

One thing the Starship UK authorities haven't done is to soundproof the voting booths. Outside, Mandy listens, puzzled, to the sound of smacks and squeals coming from within. Then a masked figure comes from the shadows – and reveals her identity as Liz Ten. She smiles, partly to reassure the child, but partly too in recognition of the sounds and what they mean. It really is the Doctor, she murmurs to herself. After all, didn't he once do the very same thing to the Virgin Queen?

The story moves on to the climactic scene in the Tower of London. The Doctor has worked out what is going on, and he has also realized why Amy pressed the forget button: she was trying to take the decision for him. And that angers him. 'You don't ever, ever choose what I should and shouldn't know,' he snaps at her. 'When we get back to the TARDIS, it's a good spanking for you.' Amy's eyes widen. 'And on your bare bottom!'

So it looks as if the Doctor's going to use the ultimate deterrent uncommonly early in his relationship with his new companion. But Amy holds her ground. 'That's not fair! I made a mistake, which I don't even remember making, by the way, and you've already spanked me for it. Debt paid!' And off she goes to sulk in the corner.

The Doctor sets about his grim task of putting the star whale out of its misery. Amy observes what's going on around her and acts on her observation, with a little help from Liz Ten's hand. The star whale is released, and... 'Amy,' says the Doctor, 'what have you done?'

Of course, everything's alright. But later, outside the TARDIS, the Doctor and Amy have their edgy discussion about almost killing the entire population of England, and almost killing a star whale. Amy explains herself, in the same terms as in the televised version, and the Doctor nods in acknowledgement.

'So,' she says, with a slight nervous catch in her voice. 'Does that mean... that you're not going to...' She tails off, unable to say the words.

'Spank you?' says the Doctor.

Amy nods. 'On my...' She can't bring herself to say that either, and the sentence dries up again.

The Doctor lets it hang there unfinished for a moment. Amy looks at him with wide, fearful eyes. 'No, I'm not' he says at last. Amy visibly relaxes. But his next words bring the tension flooding back. Very quietly, he adds, 'Not yet.'